

Amendments to the Specification

Page 20, after line 3 and before the first full paragraph on that page, please add the following:

As illustrated in Fig. 20C, the deformable, soft shell 12' can carry a plurality of integrally molded, relatively short, outwardly oriented ribs indicated generally at 12'-3 on an exterior periphery thereof. These ribs, after insertion, directly contact the periphery of the ear canal. They tend to attenuate acoustic energy which is internally generated and is radiating outward toward the ear canal. This reduces feedback enabling the respective hearing aid to be operated at a higher gain than previously possible.